

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action dated October 28, 2008, the Examiner indicates that claim 18 fails to further limit the Markush group, which raises issues under 35 USC 112(2). In addition, the Examiner notes that claim 18 as amended is dependent on claim 3 and that claims 19-40 depend on claim 18 (directly or indirectly), but the Examiner indicates that species A1 and A2 of claim 3 (see general formula II) and species of general formulas IIIa and IIIb are not identical, and therefore, for instance, claim 22 cannot be dependent on claim 3, directly or indirectly.

In response, Applicants submit initially that the subject matter of dependent claims 18-40 is completely within the scope of independent claim 3. Specifically, claims 18-40 further limit claim 3, and thus there should be no issue with respect to 35 U.S.C. 112.

In this regard, it is noted that claim 18 is currently directed to photoisomerization in particular, while originally it was directed to photoisomerization and/or photodimerization. Present claim 18 further limits claim 3 by requiring that A¹ and A² are limited to photoreactive groups which can be photoisomerized.

Further, the fact that species A1 and A2 of claim 3 and species of general formulas IIIa and IIIb are not identical does not mean that claim 22 cannot be dependent on claim 3, directly or indirectly. Rather, as noted above, claims 18-40 are completely within the scope of independent claim 3. In this regard, the species of general formulas IIIa and IIIb further limit species A1 and A2 of claim 3, and thus claim 22 can properly be dependent on claim 3.

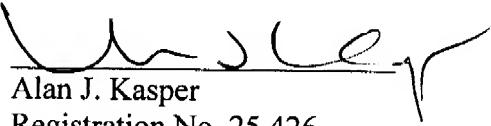
Thus, Applicants submit that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Alan J. Kasper
Registration No. 25,426

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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